



# Nuckolls County Board Minutes



## **JULY 8, 2013 PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUCKOLLS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Nuckolls County Board of Commissioners met Monday, July 8, 2013 in the Board Meeting Room at the Courthouse, Nelson, Nebraska, per recess of July 1, 2013. Combs, Brown and Corman present for the meeting. The agenda of said meeting was remitted to board members in advance of the meeting and is posted in the County Clerk's office and on the County Website. Combs announced the 'Open Meetings Act Law' as posted in the Commissioners Board Meeting Room and handouts are available.

The board reconvened at 9:01 a.m. Chairman Combs approved the Agenda as submitted and the July 1, 2013 minutes as submitted. Chuck Mittan, News reporter for the Superior Express is present for the meeting.

Gary Warren, Highway Superintendent met with the Board to update them on the current activities of the County Road Department. Warren noted some of the guys are out blading roads this week. One road employee is out hauling gravel to problem areas. It was discussed how some of the gravel roads at the stop signs are getting ripples on them and they will need to be fixed. Warren also noted he has some of the employees working on inventory for fiscal year end. Warren announced that Project C-65 (687), on road 4300 between Section 19, T4N-R5W (Hammond Precinct) and Section 24, T4N-R6W (Sherman Precinct) is complete. Warren discussed some miscellaneous projects they are working on this week such as re-grading dirt roads, working on re-grading in the ditches, etc. They will be trying to get to the Oak Road this week also weather permitting. Warren announced that the three pickups that were recently deemed surplus property were sold at Big Iron Auction. The County will receive a total of \$1,520.00 for all three pickups. The Superior Country Club is requesting to purchase used 15 to 16 foot wood planks for their bridge. The City of Superior wants to discuss options for getting 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Superior paved. They would like concrete if possible. The County owns a portion of 15<sup>th</sup> Street outside the city limits. The City would like to cost share this expense. After some discussion, the Board determined to not make any determination at this time. Warren requested to purchase a Miller Legacy, gas Arc Welder, 230 Amp from Rich Anderson. The County has currently been using the welder on loan from Anderson. It has approximately 1,957 hours and is approximately 5 years old. Warren noted the other welder they have is not big enough to work on heavy iron. The Board gave the go ahead to purchase the welder. Warren discussed with the Board about a motorgrader in the Bostwick area (John Deere 770CH1990) has some slippage in the transmission. Warren inquired on a new remand transmission from John Deere. It will cost approximately \$20,000.00. If John Deere installs the transmission, the County would receive a year warranty for the cost of \$4,000.00 in labor for J.D. to install, if the County installs the transmission, we would receive a 90 day warranty with no additional costs. The Board determined to have the County mechanic install the transmission to save on the costs. Warren submitted a 'Notice to Bidders' on the Bid Letting for the tubes on Project C-65 (647) and Project C-65 (676). It will be advertized for 3 weeks starting July 11, 2013.

During the Elected Officials and Department Heads time with the Board, Tim Stutzman met with them to bring them up to date on the Sedan Elevator Explosion, owned by the Aurora Coop. It appears that 2 people were injured. One an employee and the other is a farmer bringing his wheat to the elevator. Stutzman had taken a few pictures after he was called to the scene as the Emergency Manager. The Board also asked Stutzman about noxious weeds in District 2.

Vicki Ensign submitted the Revised 6 Month Balance on Revenue from January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013, and the Semi Annual Statement and Summary of Investments as of June 30, 2013. Ensign also discussed investments and pledged securities with the Board. She would like to move some of the monies from CD's to NPAIT.



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Brian Cochran from Midwest Mailing Solution, Inc. met with the Board to request approval for the renewal on the lease for the postage machine. Ensign was also present for this session. Ensign noted she is very happy with the machine. Cochran noted the County will receive a new postage machine with the new 5 year lease agreement. The cost is \$264.00 a month (this is the same amount as last lease agreement). The lease agreement with MailFinance, Inc. will include parts, labor and quarterly maintenance service. The County will be required to purchase the postage and supplies. **A motion was made by Corman to approve the 5 year lease agreement with MailFinance Inc. for an IM460 Digital Mailing System with 10 lb weigh platform for \$264.00 a month, Brown seconded the motion. Combs voted aye, Brown voted aye, Corman voted aye, 0 voted nay. Motion carried.**

Chairman Combs recessed the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:58 a.m. for Board of Equalization. Chairman Combs reconvened the Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:59 a.m.

The following Elected Officials and Department Heads met with the Board to discuss employee wage increase for the 2014 year for budgeting purposes. Tim Schmidt, County Attorney; Gary Warren, Highway Superintendent; Susan Rogers, County Assessor; Jim Marr, Sheriff; Royce Gonzales, District Court Clerk; Vicki Ensign, Treasurer; Tim Stutzman, Emergency Manager and Jackie Kassebaum, County Clerk. The Board asked all of them what their thoughts were on employee wage increase. It was noted that the \$40.00 they received last year was not enough. Some discussion was held regarding a certain % increase vs a straight dollar amount. It was asked what the Nebraska cost of living increase from last year was. It was noted the S.S. Commission has a 2% increase. Others noted they should get \$60.00 to \$70.00 a month increase. Others think that regular employees should be within a certain percentage of the Deputies and currently the Deputies are at 75% of the Elected Officials. The Sheriff would like to give his Sheriff's Deputies an increase of \$150.00 and his dispatchers \$70.00. The Board noted that all Elected Officials and Department Heads need to be doing employee evaluations. They would like to start doing salary increases based on performance within 3 years. Warren noted that doing evaluations is not as difficult as he thought it would be. Schmidt commented that all increases should be the same between offices. It was noted that with last years \$40.00 a month increase they lost most of it to the increase in Federal Tax % paid by the employee. The insurance costs were also discussed as part of a salary. It was noted that Nuckolls County Employees are low wages but high benefits. The Board was asked what they thought for an increase, however they did not comment. The Board looks at the total cost to keep an employee. No decision was made at this time. It was determined to make the decision on July 22, 2013 at the regular meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was recessed at 11:55 a.m. until Monday, April 22, 2013.

Michael D. Combs, Chairman

By: Jackie L. Kassebaum, County Clerk